

February 20, 1996

## Commentary

## Not taking anything for granted

Hey, didn't you used to be the Rebels BWC tournament chances...

I always thought it was some sort of law that UNLV at least makes the Conference tournament...

I don't think I have ever heard a Runnin' Rebel coach utter the words, "I think we could get in (to the Big West Tournament) with eight wins." Head coach, Bill Bayno said it Saturday night. Makes ya kinda nervous, huh?

Alright, here is your BWC tournament break down, as compiled by the Bench Department of Playoff Possibilities (your tuition dollars at work): the Rebels are currently in last place with Cal State Fullerton at 5-9. Ahead of them is Nude Mexico State and San Joke State at 6-9 and 6-8, disrespectfully. So here comes the math (get out your slide rules), the Rebels have to beat NMSU Saturday night in the house that Tark built. Then leave the friendly Las Vegas Valley to face Reno (don't need to change that name it's joke enough as is) on Feb. 26 and finish out the year with Bootah State on March 1. Hang in there now, because we're not done just yet. The Rebs will also need losses by Pacifist, SJSU and NMSU. Now Pacific plays Alone Beach State on Thursday at the Pyramid (no that's not the Luxor, kids) and San Joke plays UC Sacko Barbara, and Nude Mexico plays Bootah State. Your head spinnin' yet? I thought so...

And while Bayno's club keeps chuggin' along in the sub .500 lane, his old club, UMass, is still undefeated, at 23-0, on the fast track to a National Championship...

From the Bench Quote department (your tuition dollars at work), Bayno on his former team and on his current squad: "They are killers aren't they (UMass), they are killers. You talk about poise and heart, play making your shots. But I wouldn't rather be anywhere else in the world, than right here." Hopefully he will have that same sentiment when he watches UMass celebrate in East Rutherford, New Jersey on April 1.

See Bench, pg. 7

## Off the Bench

MICHAEL MELISSA

## Rebels wake up against Fullerton

UNLV snaps a three-game skid, keep playoff hopes alive

BY MICHAEL MELISSA  
SPORTS EDITOR

Every UNLV basketball player was in class Friday morning, and that's all head coach Bill Bayno wanted.

"We got our guys up at 4:30 (a.m.) from Pacific, after we got our heads kicked in to get up and go to class," head coach Bill Bayno said. "Every kid was in class, we got back here at 8:45 a.m. and they went to class all day."

With only limited practice time on Friday and Saturday, the Rebels still outlasted Cal State Fullerton Saturday night, 68-59 at the Thomas & Mack Center. The Rebels are now 5-9 in the Big West Conference, 8-14 overall, and tied with Fullerton for last in the BWC.

The Rebels then turned around and played another game Monday night, against BWC front-runner UC Irvine.

"We're not going to be able to do anything tomorrow except walk through and shoot fouls because we're exhausted," Bayno said. "We didn't get out of the Pacific gym until 11:15-11:30 p.m. By the time we un-wound it was 2:30, our guys probably got

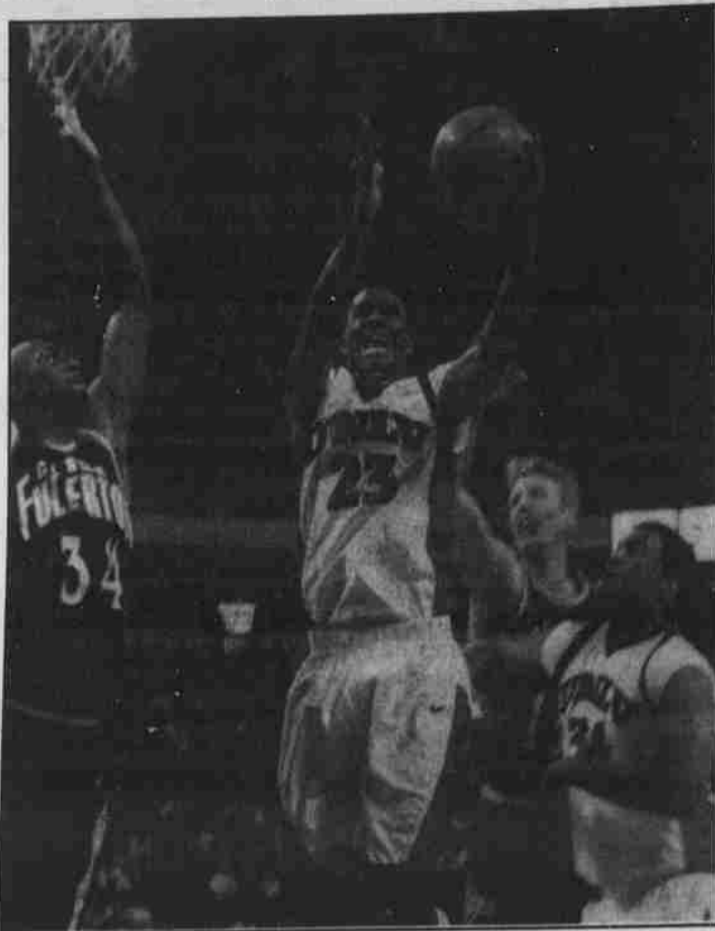


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

No. 23, Ben Sanders, drives through CSF defenders.

an hour, hour-and-a-half of sleep. And we had a 4:30 wake up.

"From a basketball standpoint we should have slept in Friday. We should have had a great practice and prepared, and just used it as a travel day. But we didn't and that was a decision we made as a staff."

But the exhausted Rebels did not show up for the first half of the game, instead it was a team that looked fresh and ready to go.

The Rebels started the game

with a 12-2 run, holding the Titans scoreless for the first four minutes of the game, and to just two points for the first eight.

"In the first half we played better defense and we had them," Bayno explained. "If we would have just offensive rebounded, which has been our achilles heel all year—they had 10 offensive rebounds (in the first half), five of their baskets came off of offensive rebounds, they couldn't score on us in half court—we would have held them to 11 points, if

we would have played perfect basketball, from a rebounding standpoint."

What the Rebels did play was near-perfect basketball in the first half, going into the break leading 36-21. They led by as much as 20 in the half and shot 51 percent from the floor in the first half.

The fatigue may have set in the second half as the Titans chopped away at the UNLV lead. The Rebels were up by just four with 1:19 remaining, but that was as close as they would get as the Rebels shut them down for the rest of the game.

Sunshine Smith and Warren Rosegreen led the Rebels with 18 points. Rosegreen also finished up with 11 rebounds, many of which could find themselves on a highlight reel at the end of the season.

"(Rosegreen) is superhuman when he comes into the right frame of mind," Bayno said of the 6-foot-5 forward's energy during the game.

On Thursday, the Rebels were blown out by Pacific, 80-55. It was the Rebels ninth straight road loss of the season, and the first time they were swept in a season by the Tigers since 1971.

It was a game in which nothing seemed to go right for UNLV. They turned the ball over 20 times and shot just 39 percent from the floor. They were out-rebounded 35-26 and only Clayton Johnson scored in double figures, with 24. But that was the only bright spot in an otherwise dismal appearance by the Runnin' Rebels.

The Rebels faced UCI Monday night, but results were not available at press time.

## Hustlin' Rebels steal three from New Mexico

BY MARCUS HOSKIN  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Hustlin' Rebels might want to change their names to the Cardiac Kids after their two late-inning come-from-behind victories and three-game sweep of University of New Mexico.

The two wins improved UNLV's record to 7-1 at home and 8-3 overall.

On Friday, UNLV played what resembled a typical Las Vegas Stars Pacific Coast League game in their 12-10 win.

Like the hitter-friendly PCL, the Rebs pounded out 12 hits and New Mexico walked eight UNLV batters in the three-hour and 14 minute non-pitchers dual.

UNLV battled back from a 10-8 deficit, scoring three runs in the seventh inning and one in the eighth inning.

Outfielder Ted Wilkes led off the rally in the seventh by ripping a ground rule double and John Novak walked. Shortstop Paul Tanner then singled to right field to score Wilkes and ad-

vance Novak to third base.

Tanner stole second but the throw by Lobo catcher Adam Taylor went into center field, allowing Novak to score the tying run and Tanner to move to third. Freshman Sean Campbell came up and singled past a drawn-in infield and Tanner came home and gave the Rebels the winning run.

Starter Mike Bauder allowed 12 hits in five innings and gave up nine runs, six earned, struck out three and walked one.

Chad Barry (1-0) picked up the win for UNLV, pitching four innings in relief and allowing one run on three hits.

On Saturday, UNLV pulled off a furious two-out ninth inning comeback and scored five runs to steal a 7-6 victory.

Trailing 6-5, senior Scott Vincent came to the plate batting a meager .056, 1-for-18 on the season. With two outs and the bases loaded, Vincent rapped a two-run double down the third base line that gave the Rebels the win.

"Coach Dallimore put a lot of confidence in me to get a hit," Vincent said. "He knew I could do it, and I knew I could do it. It's a definite confidence booster for me."

Head coach Fred Dallimore said his team refused to give up.

"We were down to our last strike two times," Dallimore said. "We just found a way to keep battling and keep battling and good things happen when you swing the bats."

Freshman pinch hitter Henry Jones led off the ninth with an infield single. Then, Chris Adolph and Stacy Kleiner both flied out. Ryan Hankins followed by hitting a 3-2 pitch to left and Jones moved to second. Kevin Eberwein's RBI single scored Jones and cut the Lobos' lead to 6-3.

New Mexico's best reliever David Waites came in to stop the bleeding. Waites' wild pitch moved Hankins to third and Eberwein to second. Wilkes' two-run single plated Hankins and Eberwein to make it 6-5. Tanner cracked the ball off Waites' leg and into left field. Campbell then walked to load the bases and set up Vincent's game-winning hit.

Wilkes was 3-for-5 with a double and a homer with three RBIs. Tanner was also 3-for-5 and Hankins was 2-for-5 to lead the Rebels. Bill Scheffels earned the victory pitching the final 2 2/3 innings, allowing

two runs on three hits.

The Rebs completed their second three-game sweep by pounding the Lobos 13-5. UNLV came out firing on all cylinders and scored two runs in the second inning on a triple by Eberwein and Wilkes' third homer of the season and second consecutive games.

"We came out and jumped on them early," Dallimore said. "I told the guys our main focus of concentration was to come out and get on top."

The Rebels added three runs in the third inning on back-to-back bombs by Hankins and Eberwein to give UNLV a 5-1 lead. In the sixth, UNLV batted around and scored four runs. Vincent's two-run triple gave the Rebs a 9-4 lead.

Starter Tom LaRosa once again looked impressive, going seven innings and allowing only four hits and two runs for his second win of the season.

Vincent continued his hot bat going 4-for-5 with four RBIs and Eberwein was 2-for-3. Ryan Hankins also paced the Rebels going 1-for-4 with three RBIs.